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Ras Baraka Challenges Sharpe James To Debate

In making his opening statement to the people about his fitness to run for re-election Mayor James first words were that he had just come back from Washington where he had been asked to stay overnight in the White House! Had I not read about the historic house negroes of chattel slavery this statement would have made little sense.

But we have to understand that for the "house negro" being allowed to stay in the masters house for even a few minutes is a great reward. To be allowed to stay overnight is Heaven!

But for most of ~~the~~ Newark's residents such idiotic braggadocio has little meaning. Except it should identify our current Mayor for you and provide one of the reasons why I and a lot of others think he should be gone.

For instance the Mayor says that he has a million dollars in his war chest? Well the people want to know where did he get it? Who gave it to him? And what service did he have to perform for this money?

The people want to know if this million dollars Sharpe James has is his for being Mayor? Or did he get it from other sources? What are those sources?

We would also like to know about the Mayor's 500,000 dollar house in Brick Township. We also want to know about his yacht? Everyone in the city talks about these things of the Mayor's all the time.

Are the house and yacht gifts or did he buy them with

his own money? If they are gifts, who gave them to him and why? Did he get them for favors he gave? What were those favors and for whom were they performed?

I also want to know how can the Mayor have a house in Brick Township and a Yacht and Newark remain one of the poorest cities in the country? How can the mayor have a mansion in Brick Township and a huge yacht and the people in Hill Manor have no heat? How can the mayor have two houses , probably more, a yacht, while a good number of Newark residents have no house at all?

The mayor says he is a millionaire! ~~How~~ did he make this money? As Mayor? How? We need answers and explanations. James says he is running on his experience, the people need to vote on their experience. Their experience of living in Newark with James as Mayor!

Let us review our experience of living in Newark with James as Mayor. Why did the Mayor get his old campaign manager, who was indicted and tried for misappropriation of City funds, a job at the Board of Education? And after he got bounced out of the Board, the Mayor gave him the job of running Symphony Hall. Where he is still an executive administrator at this very moment. Why? Isn't this cronyism?

This is the mayor who grins and slobbers welcoming the vulgar racist, Howard Stern to Symphony Hall and even gets out in the street and directs traffic for him like a doorman but rejects the Nation of Islam attempt's to show a

film. That's our experience!

Is this the mayor's lack of cultural development? Is he suggesting our children should love and emulate Howard Stern and stay away from Farrakhan and them bad negroes at all costs? James should wear a t-shirt saying "Our Children need Howard Stern" That's how you get to sleep in the white house.

Our experience of the Mayor is that he has opposed democracy for the people of the city repeatedly. The Mayor is] against the elected school board, yet most cities in New Jersey have them . And they are only questioned when the residents of those cities are mostly Black and Latino.

James has never come out strongly against the school takeover. His line is if I cant control the schools let the state take them ---let anybody run them but the people. Sharpe thinks that the citizens of Newark need no power. He thinks that him sleeping with Bill Clinton is the only power the people need.

The threatened state takeover of schools which the mayor winks at is not meant for educational reform but grand larceny and national oppression, to steal Newark's education budget and replace Newark residents working in the schools with privatization and suburban bureacrats.

The Mayor has already privatized the Sanitation Department taking jobs from Newark residents on behalf of organized Crime. Did any of his million dollars come from

grateful garbage criminals?

The Mayor has continuously opposed A Civilian Police Complaint Review Board. First he brings in a Police Director from Boston who cant even find his way to the police station, completely ignoring veteran quality police officers serving in Newark many years. Then he brings in the State Police, a group of racist thugs in the main, so racist that even the black State Police went to a congressional committee to complain about the racist practices of the state police. Yet our millionaire mayor invites them in.

And we have witnessed him turn them loose on our children. We have seen running some misguided teenagers in allegedly stolen cars into trees and firehydrants and light poles, even though the law outlaws chases through the city. One such chase crippled four young men right in front of my house.

The mayor thinks the answer to crime is make war on the youth and bring in more police and the state police. But police cant stop crime! The only way to stop crime is with Education Employment and Recreation! Not dangerous ultimately bloody chases through the Newark streets which endanger all of us.

The mayor falls in line with the rest of the right wing racists who believe our children cannot learn and need to be sent to boot camps. The mayor thinks that trying the youth as adults (as young as 13 years old), sentencing them

to 20 years for car theft is the answer to crime. Only Education, Employment and Recreation will stop crime. Not Sharpe James threatening to put a metal detector on Broad and Market.

How much of Sharpe's million come from Miles Berger of Robert Treat Hotel and Club Zanzibar and other hotels in the area? Mr. Berger makes at least 12 to 15 million dollars a year from the city of Newark. For housing the homeless in his hotels! This is a criminal ripoff. Is this the way the mayor of a city as poor as ours is supposed to be gets a million dollars? Everybody wants to know. It is the talk of the town.

When the former head of the housing authority, Dan Blue suggested one morning that the homeless be housed in renovated abandoned buildings rather than the hotel ripoff he was fired that afternoon. How much was his firing worth to Mr. Berger, 12-15 million a year? How did Sharpe get his million? And from whom? And for doing what?

It's obvious that there must be city wide debates between the Mayoral candidates to let the people hear and decide who is qualified on the real side to lead the peoples struggle for democracy and self determination and self respect, self reliance and self defense.

James continues to bring in carpet baggers, out of town sharpies to make a quick bundle while pretending to give us leadership. Newark residents are just too simple minded

says Sharpe, to run their own affairs. So whether it is Police Director, Symphony Hall & other cultural and political posts James always thinks it is better to bring in somebody from outside the city thus continuing the status quo.

Mayor James will no doubt try to stay away from debates, He knows he has nothing to gain by debating , he will only be shown up as the House Negro he has always been. But the people have something to gain from such debates, a city. And it's up to the people to demand these debates from the Mayor.

-RAS BARAKA

242-1342
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